

All Division 9 (Forest Policy and Economics) Meeting

7 - Europe Inside / Outside - The export of European forest policies, objectives and architecture through

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KG I - 1009 (Uni Freiburg)

IUFRO17-3174 **Changing patterns in wood trade: the emerging EU regional market**

Andrighetto, N.\* (1); Pettenella, D. (1); Masiero, M. (1)

(1) *TESAF Department - University of Padova, Legnaro, Italy*

**Abstract:** In the last decade many political and socio-economical drivers have been characterizing the European timber market. Since the global demand for timber products in emerging economies has increased, Europe has gradually diminished its leading role on the international timber market. At the same time, the legal requirements for placing timber in the EU market have become stricter through the implementation of the Regulations (EU) 2173/2005 and 995/2010.

Our study aims to demonstrate that, due to these (and other) driving forces, the EU timber market is subjected to a regionalization process, with a growing concentration of trade flows among European countries. To test this hypothesis the research analyses the EU roundwood and sawnwood markets, trying to identify their most recent trends. Starting from 2005-2014 UN Comtrade data, the research aims to assess the level of regionalization of the EU timber market, through trade-related indicators such as changes in the number of trading partners for selected EU countries and the trends in extra-EU timber imports.

Results show how, after the economic crisis (2008), the role of the intra-EU trade in roundwood and sawnwood has suddenly risen, while imports of tropical timber dropped. In 2012-2014, although less evident, these trends continued.

regionalization, timber, trade, intra-EU, FLEGT

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IUFRO17-2016 **Restoring Government Forest Policy Prerogative? The EU FLEGT Ambivalent Relationship with Private Rulemaking in the Congolese Case**

Alain Karsenty, A.\* (1); Montouroy, Y. (2)

(1) *CIRAD, Montpellier Cedex 5, France;* (2) *Université des Antilles-Guadeloupe, CAGI, Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe*

**Abstract:** The aim of our presentation is to critically explore the FLEGT VPAs implementation. VPAs can be seen as an endeavour of both the beneficiaries' governments and the EU to restore the prerogatives of the public authorities regarding the control of legality. By seeking certification of all the country's production of timber, successful VPAs would question the added value of independent certification schemes, such as the FSC. However, the VPA success is far from being achieved.

We especially seek to analyse the private actors and experts role. We argue here that the FLEGT has lead to an ambivalent relationship with private rulemaking and expertise.

First, the EU policy transfer towards developing states occurs in a sector dominated by private rules. NGOs, firms, experts have a contentious relationship with the EU authorities as they attempt to curve EU FLEGT policy objectives regarding their own technical norms and sustainability definition.

Second, experts are omnipresent. The EU and VPA state simultaneously mandate them to implement and to monitor the FLEGT VPA as the same expert already define technical norms that ground forest certification schemes.

Third, the national administrations have proved unable to set a reliable national system of legal verification and traceability (SVLT) and are considering endorsing private system implemented by forest companies for EUTR compliance as "equivalent" to national norms.

Grounded on a qualitative methodology, interviews with EU, Congolese and transnational organization representatives and research fields in Congo, we first analyse the EU policy transfers and then we seek to analyse the changing relationship with private actors. What are we learning from this new relationship between EU and transnational rule and how can we study it in multiscalar governance?

FLEGT VPA certification schemes authority experts

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IUFRO17-2727 **Developing a National Forest Policy in New Zealand - European Influences**

Edwards, P.\* (1); McEwen, A. (2); Richardson, B. (3); Payn, T. (3)

(1) *Scion, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand;* (2) *Registered Forester, Wellington, New Zealand;* (3) *Scion, Rotorua, New Zealand*

**Abstract:** New Zealand has long lacked a national forest policy. This is understandable in a political environment with a strong neo-liberal, market-based leaning, where "the market will decide" has been the overriding mantra to the forest sector. Forest sector professionals, including the New Zealand Institute of Forestry have recently drafted a national forest policy to be able to deliver greater overall net benefits to the country. Accounting for the unique New Zealand context, it was developed following Australian and European models, particularly Finnish and Irish forest policies, and the new EU Forest Strategy. Despite these policies being situated in a more government interventionist context, the ideas of improving production, environmental and social outcomes through a forest policy is common to all. In its development, the sector has taken a holistic approach, including sustainable forest management, wood processing, non-timber values and uses in order to demonstrate widespread appeal and support amongst the forest and adjacent sectors. In examining the European influences on this policy development under New Zealand conditions, we also question whether a market-driven philosophy is compatible with a forest policy, given the poorly recognised time scale and benefits of forestry.

Forest policy, European influence, market-based

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
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